

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17185 01 OF 03 021557Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

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USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 ISO-00 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6031

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 17185

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GW

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL CHANGES IN FRG FONOFF

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PAGE 02 BONN 17185 01 OF 03 021557Z

REF: BONN 16914

1. SUMMARY. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, CHANGES IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE FRG FONOFF WILL OCCUR IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. GUIDO BRUNNER, UNTIL NOW THE CHIEF OF THE FRG'S CSCE DELEGATION AND OF THE FONOFF PLANNING STAFF, WILL MOVE TO BRUSSELS TO BECOME THE SUCCESSOR OF RALF DAHRENDORF ON THE EC COMMISSION. BRUNNER WILL BE REPLACED BY KLAUS BLECH, UNTIL NOW HEAD OF THE FONOFF'S EAST-WEST RELATIONS SECTION. BLECH, IN TURN, WILL BE REPLACED BY ANDREAS MEYER-LANDRUT, PRESENTLY HEAD OF THE FONOFF'S SOVIET DESK. FOLLOWING IS THE EMBASSY'S BIOGRAPHIC EVALUATION OF THE THREE MEN. END SUMMARY.

2. BRUNNER. GUIDO BRUNNER IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHOSE IMPENDING MOVE TO BRUSSELS TO THE EC COMMISSION HAS CAUSED SOME RAISED EYEBROWS IN BONN. WHILE HE HAS HAD A FAST CAREER IN THE FRG DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, FEW OBSERVERS THOUGHT HE POSSESSED THE REPUTATION NECESSARY TO ASSUME THE COMMISSION POSITION. IN FACT, HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE JOB HAS PROBABLY LESS TO DO WITH HIS MANIFEST DIPLOMATIC TALENTS THAN WITH THE LACK OF OTHER POWERFUL, ATTRACTIVE FDP CANDIDATES. INDEED, IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST FIVE OR SIX OTHER GERMANS OFFERED THE JOB WHO REJECTED IT BEFORE BRUNNER WAS GIVEN THE NOD. BRUNNER'S LACK OF POLITICAL STANDING PROBABLY ACCORDS WELL WITH THE GENERAL FEELING IN BONN THESE DAYS ABOUT THE VALUE AND POLITICAL CLOUT OF THE COMMISSION.

BRUNNER IS ONE OF THE FRG'S MOST SUCCESSFUL YOUNGER DIPLOMATS. AT 44, HE HAS ALREADY BEEN THE FOREIGN OFFICE PRESS SPOKESMAN FOR SCHEEL (1970-72), AND HEAD OF THE PLANNING STAFF AND CSCE DELEGATION CHIEF (1972-74). HIS SUCCESS HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF A KEEN INTELLECT, A FACILITY WITH BOTH THE SPOKEN AND WRITTEN WORD (HE WAS SCHEEL'S SPEECHWRITER WHILE SCHEEL WAS MINISTER), AND A KEEN SENSE OF PARTY POLITICS. AS AN FDP MEMBER, HE WAS SCHEEL'S GOLDEN BOY AND THEREFORE WAS PROMOTED EVEN FASTER THAN HIS TALENTS WOULD SEEM TO

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PAGE 03 BONN 17185 01 OF 03 021557Z

HAVE WARRANTED. THIS NATURALLY CREATED SOME RESENTMENTS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, WHERE HIS DEPARTURE FOR BRUSSELS IS VIEWED WITH SATISFACTION. BRUNNER IS MARRIED TO THE DELIGHTFUL DAUGHTER OF GENERAL HANS SPEIDEL. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH. BRUNNER MAY BE SOMEWHAT HAMPERED IN BRUSSELS, NOT BECAUSE OF LACK OF BRAINS OR ABILITY BUT BECAUSE HE LACKS ANY POLITICAL BASE WHATSOEVER IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE EUROPEANS

IN BRUSSELS WILL KNOW IT, AND HIS STATURE WILL SUFFER
ACCORDINGLY.

3. BLECH. KLAUS BLECH IS ONE OF THE FASTEST RISING
STARS IN THE FRG'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. HE WAS PROMOTED,
FAR AHEAD OF HIS COUNTERPARTS, TO HIS PRESENT POSITION
AS HEAD OF THE POLITICAL DIVISION'S EAST-WEST RELATIONS
SECTION ONLY A YEAR AGO. IN THIS JOB, HE HAD RESPONSI-
BILITY FOR FRG-SOVIET AND FRG-EE RELATIONS, CSCE AND
THE BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN DESK. PRIOR TO THAT HE WAS FOR
TWO YEARS THE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR BERLIN/INNER-
GERMAN PROBLEMS.

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PAGE 01 BONN 17185 02 OF 03 021559Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 17185

BLECH IS, BY GERMAN BUREAUCRATIC STANDARDS, YOUNG
(46 YEARS) BOTH FOR HIS PRESENT POSITION AND FOR THE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17185 02 OF 03 021559Z

IMPENDING ONE. HIS FAST CAREER RESULTS IN LARGE PART
FROM HIS QUIET SELF-CONFIDENCE, HIS ABILITY TO REPRESENT
GERMAN INTERESTS FORCEFULLY AND EFFECTIVELY AND, NOT LEAST,
HIS OPERATIONAL ABILITIES. HE KNOWS WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE
AND HOW TO DO IT. THIS IS NO SMALL ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE
GERMAN BUREAUCRACY, WHICH TENDS STILL TO BE FAIRLY
HIDEBOUND.

WE HAVE HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH BLECH SINCE HE CAME
TO BONN IN 1971 FROM TOKYO, WHERE HE HAD SPENT 3 YEARS.
HE STRIKES US AS BRIGHT, FAST ON HIS FEET, AGGRESSIVE
AND AMBITIOUS. WITH ALL OF THIS, HE IS ATTRACTIVE
PERSON, WITH A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR AND THE ABILITY TO
RELAX COMPLETELY ONCE AWAY FROM THE OFFICE. HE IS WELL
DISPOSED TOWARD THE US, WHERE HE STUDIED FOR A YEAR
IN THE EARLY 1950'S AT BARD COLLEGE IN NEW YORK, HOWEVER,
HE IS ONE OF THE NEW BREED OF GERMAN DIPLOMATS,
SENSITIVE TO ANYTHING SMACKING OF A SUPERIOR ATTITUDE
ON THE PART OF THE US, UK OR FRANCE AS FAR AS GERMAN
AFFAIRS ARE CONCERNED. HE IS QUICK TO PROTECT GERMAN
INTERESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF RELATIONS WITH THE THREE
POWERS. WE EXPECT THAT THIS SIDE OF HIS CHARACTER WILL
BE IMPORTANT AS HE DIGS INTO THE CSCE WORK, WHERE
GERMAN PROBLEMS OFTEN SEEM (TO BONN) TO LOOM LARGE.
BLECH WILL PLAY A MINOR ROLE IN THE PLANNING STAFF JOB,
AT LEAST FOR MANY MONTHS. HE DOES NOT CONSIDER THE
PLANNING STAFF POSITION ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT AT PRESENT
SINCE IT PLAYS NO ROLE NOW IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY.
IT HAS BEEN AN INEFFECTIVE BODY FOR THE PAST COUPLE
OF YEARS. THE CSCE POSITION WILL OCCUPY MOST OF HIS
TIME AND HE EXPECTS TO SPEND HIS WEEKDAYS IN GENEVA AND
HIS WEEKENDS IN BONN WITH HIS FAMILY.

BLECH ENJOYS HIS FAMILY LIFE. HE IS MARRIED TO AN

ATTRACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT WOMAN, RENATE, AND HAS THREE CHILDREN, RANGING IN AGE FROM 16 TO 10. HE SPENDS HIS WEEKENDS HIKING AND GARDENING AND KEEPING HEALTHY. HE IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF HIS HEALTH, HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN A SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN MOSCOW LAST JANUARY WHICH LEFT MOST OF HIS RIBS STAVED IN ON ONE SIDE. WE RECOMMEND BLECH TO OUR CSCE DELEGATION.
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PAGE 03 BONN 17185 02 OF 03 021559Z

HE WILL PROVE A SMART, FORCEFUL AND USEFUL COLLEAGUE -- AND A LIKEABLE ONE.

4. MEYER-LANDRUT. ANDREAS MEYER-LANDRUT, LIKE BLECH, IS ONE OF THE FRG DIPLOMATIC SERVICES FAST-RISING STARS. AT 45 YEARS, HE HAS TAKEN OVER ONE OF THE MOST SENSITIVE OF THE FOREIGN OFFICES SECTIONS. HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DESTINED FOR THIS SORT OF CAREER FROM THE BEGINNING. HAVING JOINED THE SERVICE IN 1955 AS ITS FIRST SLAVICIST (SPEAKING FLUENT RUSSIAN, SERBO-CROATIAN, AS WELL AS ESTONIAN, FRENCH AND ENGLISH), HE HAS HAD TWO TOURS IN MOSCOW AND TWO TOURS ON THE SOVIET DESK IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

HE IS AN ATTRACTIVE, INTELLECTUAL AND HARD-MINDED INDIVIDUAL. HE HAS A QUICK GRASP OF SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS AND EAST-WEST AFFAIRS AND A KEEN NOSE FOR GERMAN INTERESTS IN THESE AREAS. HE, LIKE BLECH, IS OPERATIONALLY ADEPT AND HAS EASY ACCESS TO FOREIGN

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PAGE 01 BONN 17185 03 OF 03 021600Z

43
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 17185

MINISTER GENSCHER (AND, PREVIOUSLY, MINISTER SCHEEL),
LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIS OBVIOUS EXPERTISE. HE HAS
BEEN FRIENDLY TO US IN BONN AND WAS ALSO, WE UNDERSTAND,
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PAGE 02 BONN 17185 03 OF 03 021600Z

MOST USEFUL TO US IN BRAZZAVILLE WHERE, AS FRG AMBASSA-
DOR FROM 1969 TO 1971, HE ALSO REPRESENTED US INTERESTS.

MEYER-LANDRUT IS MARRIED TO AN ATTRACTIVE, IF SOMEWHAT
FLAMBOYANT, HUNGARIAN-BORN ARTIST, AND THEY HAVE TWO
CHILDREN. HIS HOBBY, AMOUNTING TO SOMETHING OF A
PASSION, IS HORSEBACK RIDING. A VERY GOOD AND SOUND
MAN, HE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A VALUABLE CONTACT IN BONN.

5. COMMENT. ALL OF THESE CHANGES HAVE THE PERSONAL
BLESSING OF FONMIN GENSCHER. HE HAS NEVER BEEN FOND OF
BRUNNER AND WAS REPORTEDLY UNIMPRESSED BY BRUNNER'S
PERFORMANCE IN GENEVA. THE LATTER'S MOVE TO BRUSSELS
THEREFORE SOLVED TWO PROBLEMS: (A) IT GOT BRUNNER

OUT OF GENSCHER'S WAY; AND (B) IT PROVIDED AN FDP
MEMBER AS DAHRENDORF'S SUCCESSOR ON THE COMMISSION.
AS TO BLECH AND MEYER-LANDRUT, GENSCHER HAS BEEN
IMPRESSED BY THE ENERGY, INTELLECTUAL DRIVE AND TOUGH-
MINDEDNESS OF THE TWO, AND HE APPARENTLY
BELIEVES THAT THESE CHARACTERISTICS SHOULD BE REWARDED.
HE IS ESPECIALLY KEEN TO PUT CAPABLE YOUNGER MEN (BY
GERMAN STANDARDS) INTO KEY POSITIONS IN THE FOREIGN
OFFICE. IN CHOOSING BLECH AND MEYER-LANDRUT, HE HAS
PICKED TWO OF THE FONOFF'S PROSPECTIVE STARS.
HILLENBRAND

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